Amendments To The Specification:

In the English translation document, please delete the term --Description-- at page 1 line 1, before the title.

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 1 line 4, after the title, as follows:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/DE2003/002707, filed August 11, 2003 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10238831.8 filed August 23, 2002, both applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 4, after the newly added CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, as follows:

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 1 lines 5-9, as follows:

The invention relates to a process-optimizing device and a method for optimizing processes ~~according to the preamble of Claim 1~~. The invention further relates to an MES device for optimizing processes ~~according to the preamble of Claim 12 and a method for optimizing processes according to the preamble of Claim 17~~.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 1 line 10, as follows:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 1 line 11 to page 2 line 8, as follows:

Processes which execute in a factory, in particular production processes or manufacturing processes, are normally controlled or governed by a monitoring and control system, in particular by a PLT device. The abbreviated term PLT device refers to a device for process instrumentation

and control, where this can be an SPC control system (e.g. a programmable logic control, a programmable controller or a programmable control system), for example. The administrative planning of a process which executes in the factory and is controlled or governed with the aid of a PLT device, for example, is generally performed using an enterprise and production planning system. An enterprise and production planning system can be an ERP device, for example. The abbreviated term ERP device refers to a device for enterprise resource planning. However, an SCM device (supply chain management device) or a CPM device (collaborative production manufacturing device) can also be used as an enterprise and production planning system. Such an enterprise and production planning system, e.g. in the form of an ERP device, is used for ordering the raw materials which are required for a manufacturing process, for example. In order to link the monitoring and control system, which takes the form of e.g. a PLT device, and the enterprise and production planning system, which takes the form of e.g. an ERP device, and therefore ultimately to optimize the process which executes in the factory, the prior art already provides for connecting a so-called MES device between the PLT device and the ERP device. The abbreviated term MES device refers to a device for a manufacturing execution system. Using such an MES device, a connection and a data exchange are therefore established between the administrative ERP device and the process-oriented PLT device, and consequently the process which is controlled or governed via the PLT device is ultimately optimized.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 3 line 3, as follows:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 4-6, as follows:

~~With this as its point of departure, the~~ The present invention addresses the problem of creating an improved device for process optimization, a corresponding method and an improved MES device.

In the English translation document, please amend the paragraph at page 3 lines 8-13, as follows:

~~This~~ These problems ~~is~~ are solved by the claims ~~further developing the device which is cited at the beginning, in such a way that it includes the features in the characterizing part of Claim 1. The MES device is developed as defined in the characterizing part of Claim 12, and the method according to the invention is developed as defined in the characterizing part of Claim 17~~.

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 4 line 15, as follows:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 5 line 30, as follows:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--